

Memorandum

To: Energy Efficiency & Resource Management Council
From: Mike Guerard, Optimal Energy / EERMC Consultant Team
Date: April 18, 2019
Subject: Update on EE & SRP Technical Working Groups

In February, the Collaborative began its regular monthly meeting process with stakeholders. Two new developments were formalized at the February meeting:

- the “Collaborative” was officially renamed the Energy Efficiency (EE) Technical Working Group.
- A separate group to focus on System Reliability was confirmed and named the System Reliability Procurement (SRP) Technical Working Group, and it will operate on a similar monthly schedule.

The first change is in recognition of the groups’ roles in providing informed, engaged input and opinion to National Grid as it develops annual and three-year plans. The expectation is that the active stakeholders will have the option to sign on to the plans as part of the “Settlement of the Parties” for the filing of plans with the RI Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The second change reflects the consensus view that the System Reliability Procurement Plans require additional time and focus than had previously been allocated when system reliability issues were added to Collaborative meetings in years past.

EE Technical Working Group

At the February meeting, the group closed out some 2018 work, including reviewing an update to definitions in the 2019 Plan requested by the PUC regarding labeling of pilots, demonstrations and initiatives, and a study on economic development benefits conducted by the Brattle Group. Planning for the tasks, timelines and process to develop the 2020 plan was also covered. High level review of System Reliability was also covered in this meeting since the SRP Technical Working Group’s kick-off was scheduled for March.

At the March meeting, a critical part of the stakeholder involvement commenced with the presentation of “priorities”, with Acadia Center, Green Energy Consumers Alliance and the city of Providence presenting. These presentations provided valuable insights on the needs and concerns of the environmental community and municipalities. Upcoming presentations will be by the Office of Energy Resources, Division of Public Utilities & Carriers, TEC-RI and the EERMC. Also, key areas for inclusion and/or enhancement in the 2020 Plan were also reviewed in presentations on Zero Energy Pilot, C&I Finance, and the Industrial Initiative.

EERMC CONSULTANT TEAM

The planned topic areas for the next 3 months are captured in this table:

<p>April 26, 2019 @ Innovation Hub 9:30am-12:30pm</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Updates (15 min) (SRP update will be covered briefly) 2. Member spotlight presentations (1.5hrs) (OER, EERMC, TEC RI, Division) 3. Electrification Update (30min) (Resi) 4. Marketplace (30min) (Resi) 5. Next Steps (5min)
<p>May 29, 2019 @ Innovation Hub 9am-12pm</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Updates (15min) 2. Income Eligible Update (45min) (IE) 3. Advanced Metering Functionality (AMF) (30min) (Resi and C&I) (Could shift to June) 4. Customer Insights (30min) (Resi and C&I) 5. Performance Metrics (20min) 6. SRP Update (15min) 7. Next steps (15min)
<p>June 20, 2019 @ Innovation Hub 9:30am-12:30pm</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Updates (15min) 2. Overview of National Grid’s 2020 Priorities and “Plan Outline Summary” due June 9th ----CHP Projects and 2020 Goals ----Evaluation Studies and Updates (1.5hr) 3. SRP Update (15min) 4. Next Steps (15min)

SRP Technical Working Group

At the inaugural SRP Technical Working Group in March, fundamental issues around processes, strategies and tactics of past plans were reviewed to set the stage for 2020 considerations. Historically, electricity was the exclusive focus for efforts to address load constraints through non-wire alternatives. As a result of group discussion, all stakeholders raised interest in exploring how gas constraints may also be evaluated to possibly develop non-**pipe** alternatives, particularly in consideration of the gas constraint issues on Aquidneck Island. The bulk of the meeting covered a brief review of 2018 efforts, and then moved to current activities relating to delivery of the 2019 Plan, including marketing, the SRP Portal¹, and the status of RFPs. The meeting closed with a high-level description of the process, tasks and timeline for development of the 2020 SRP Plan. As part of this development process, it was confirmed that like the EE Technical Working Group, Priority presentations will be made by participating stakeholders including Acadia Center, the Office of Energy Resources, the Division, Green Energy Consumers Alliance and the EERMC.

At the April 17 Meeting, the group continued its discussion of the broader reasons and role that SRP has, and will have, as RI’s energy infrastructure goes through significant current change with even further accelerated evolution expected.

¹ <https://www.nationalgridus.com/Business-Partners/RI-System-Portal>

EERMIC CONSULTANT TEAM

Developments with the Power Sector Transformation group, state policies and climate impacts indicate that planning on how to deal with conditions that may have broad impacts leading to constraints on the grid will require urgent action. Moves to strategic electrification of cars, homes and businesses will add electric load and alter natural gas needs. Of interest to group is what will be the best avenues to address the resulting challenges, considering different paths to address these issues include the EE Annual Plan, SRP Annual Plan, the Infrastructure, Safety and Reliability (ISR) and the Renewable Energy Growth Program that are all National Grid docket filings presented annually to the PUC.

As a follow-up to the March meeting, it was confirmed at the April meeting that reviewing and beginning some analysis of SRP planning's role for natural gas should be added to future discussions, with National Grid committing to add representatives from natural gas planning group/engineers to future meetings. The meeting also covered preliminary stakeholder Priorities for the stakeholders to begin setting goals for strategies and tactics to include in the 2020 Plan.